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RICHMOND PROGRESS

"The Friendly Newspaper That Dares to Tell The Truth"

A Democratic Newspaper that stands solidly behind President Roosevelt and the New Deal.

EIGHTH YEAR | Richmond, California March 5th 1940 | NUMBER FOUR

Grand Jury to Demand that Supervisors Act

Present Jury Expects to Request Action as the Investigations Develop

Every year as the fall season approaches, a panel of thirty-one men and women of Contra Costa County, is drawn, from which number, later, 19 are selected, by chance, to act as the grand jury for the year.

The grand jury does not try anybody. Its duty is to investigate complaints of criminal offenses, and if cause be found, to find true bills against the accused.

What Grand Juries Are For

Being in session for one year, the grand jury makes it a practice to divide its investigating work up into sub-committees whose function is to investigate the particular subject matter to which it has been assigned. Obviously, and thankfully, most of the indicated inefficiencies or questionable practices turn out to be of minor nature or easily set right, which is as it should be. Only occasionally, does an indictment like Mrs. McCord's, or a suicide like Hanlon's, etc. take place. And certainly, it is nothing quite remarkable for grand juries to make their routine investigations.

It may have seemed, at times, to Mr. John Q. Public that the principal stock in trade of grand juries is "white wash", in large quantities.And, oft times, it may appear as if some of the grand jurors were more interested in the petty graft of building up quite sizeable expense accounts for themselves, rather than in their American privilege and a duty to render thorough and impartial investigation of the conduct of this county's affairs.

Just Plain Citizens

Of course, the members of the grand jury, plain citizens before and after their year on the grand jury, are in no sense overseers, or lord high executioners. THEIR job is to dig up the facts; and wherever there is an indication that the public's government is being operated in a strange, if not questionable, manner, to turn the situation over to the proper officials and ask for action. As stated, hundreds of minor investigations may be made,ending in blind alleys, to a single discovered case of actual crookedness. Just the same, it is proper to bring to attention of the public, and our officials, those questionable practices, which may not at present be illegal, but which could develop into occasions for criminal action, if allowed to be continued, at a later date.

This writer is a member of the present, or 1939-40, Contra Costa County Grand Jury. Like his fellow grand jurors, he is appalled by the lack of attention that is paid by public officials to reports of the previous grand juries. Usually, the grand jury's work is surrounded by an aura of mystery while it is in session, and then, upon adjournment in the fall its final report is rendered, its recommendations are received—and promptly forgotten.

To Ask for Quick Action

Thanks to the present Contra Costa Couny grand jury, which is headed by scrupulously honest Anthony Crafton, of Concord, and with the hearty cooperation of the entire nineteen members, this grand jury will request the desired action from our public servants, while the grand jury is yet in session, and then, if no action is taken, that lack of action will doubtless be the subject of the report, rather than a lot of the usual recommendations on which no action has been demanded.

We are informed that some of the county supervisors who are coming up for re-election this year are asserting that the present grand jury is now acting from political reasons. If the true definition of "politics"—the science of government— is meant, of course that is true. But if, by the common meaning playing "politics" is meant the undue influence in the advancement of the interests of certain candidates, incumbents or otherwise, then, as far as this writer, one member, is concerned, this grand jury is absolutely non-political, and non-partisan. But it is just as positively honest and fair and impartial.

Their Opportunity

Of course, the county supervisors, and any other officials whose decisions may be required on the problems that are dug up by the grand jury,and dumped into their laps, can have the opportunity to stick a feather in their caps. By quick, and decisive action, not side-stepping the clear-cut issues, our supervisors will have the opportunity to prove they are the men for the job, and then everybody will be happy.

Trinty Guild has planned a mid-lenten schedule of events, one of which was the recent successful whist held in the Guild Hall. A silver offering was taken and a splendid crowd attended the gathering. After the program a tea was served by the ladies.

Mrs. Alexander Kann, who has turned her garden, which surrounds the family residence on Western Drive, into an open air studio and is busily engaged on a piece of sculpture which is to grace the art exhibition to be held in San Francisco in the near future. Mrs. Kann works in the Egyptian style and all her work is strongly under this influence.

The Point Townsend Club recently held a Valentine Party at their meeting in the Italian-American club rooms. Mr. Charles Bird, the vice president, presided at the meeting.

Mrs. Walter Paasch and Mrs. Clare Schmidt arranged for the annual card party given by the Native Sons and Daughters on February 20th at 2 p.m. in the Richmond Clubhouse. The affair was given for the benefit of homeless children and the event drew a capacity house.

In The WEEK'S NEWS

POLICE ACT AS MIDWIVES—Acting as midwives is all in the day's work for these two New York Policemen. George Chardi (left) and Arthur Golden, who are showing Mrs. Helen Blake her baby boy, which they helped deliver recently. He was named George Arthur in honor of the two policemen.

ENDS ADVENTURE VOYAGE—The City of Flint, American freighter on route to Baltimore, where she dropped anchor, ending an almost incredible adventure of 113 days on the high seas during which she was captured by a German Man-of-War.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING—Frank R. Pierce, general sales manager of Kelvinator and Leonard divisions of Nash-Kelvinator, made it by announcing record low prices for new 1940 models of large-sized, high-quality electric refrigerators. Prices have been reduced as a result of economies made in selling and manufacturing.

SWEETS TO THE SENORITA—This Cuban miss chooses her favorite flavor from a Havana piruli (lollypop)vendor. Typical scenes as this endear Cuba to tourists, according to the Cuban Tourist Commission.

GETS $45,000 BONUS—Benny McCoy, shown with his mother, signed a two year contract at $10,000 a year to play baseball with the Philadelphia Athletics. In addition he received a $45,000 bonus.

CROWN O'CURLS and purple violets—a new coiffure to wear to parties. Hair is "swirled" back from the forehead, swept up and back from the temples, the ends set in formal ringlets. The cluster of violets matches the purple crepe frock, amethyst heart pendant and amethyst earrings.

Weekly News Analysis

Administration Prepares Fight for Reciprocal Trade Treaties

by Joseph W. La Bine

EDITOR'S NOTE—*When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst, and not necessarily of this newspaper.*

COMMERCE:

Trade Battle

Just before Christmas the state department found it wise to announce that no concession on copper tariffs will be made in its reciprocal trade pact with Chile. This set a precedent, because never before has the department divulged such information about an anticipated reciprocal pact before the treaty is consummated. Official reason was "widespread public interest," but behind it lay the vocal protests of copper producing states who would otherwise join in the hue and cry when the reciprocal program comes up for renewal in congress next term.

CORDELL HULL
Will he win?

Basis of opposition is the claim that Secretary of State Cordell Hull's trade program breaks down tariff walls and permits foreign products. Under the "most favored nation" clause a concession on wheat from Argentina, for instance, would be granted all other nations holding reciprocal pacts with the U. S.

It was rumored in Washington this month that President Roosevelt is girding himself for the toughest congressional fight of his entire administration, if necessary, to extend the act. It was even reported he would attempt to beat Republican critics to the gun by taking his fight to the country before the G. O. P. can make an open issue of it.

Entirely aside from the trade act's influence on U. S. economy, observers noted it was not without important political significance. Since reciprocal agreements are not subject to senate ratification, a lucrative source of legislative logrolling has been forfeited. Proud of his work, Secretary Hull maintains he is working to benefit the entire nation, not any small section. Whether his admittedly sincere policy will prevail is among the most important issues facing the new congress.

AGRICULTURE:

Anschluss

Hungry for farm funds *(see below)* Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace has looked covetously on the well-tended $2,000,000,000 Farm Credit administration fund supervised by its governor, F. F. Hill. So conservative was Mr. Hill that there still remains a $600,000,000 FCA lending power which Mr. Wallace thought should be used to bring FCA's benefits to drouth sufferers.

FCA'S HILL
No longer . . .

Alarmed, Mr. Hill pointed out that the $1,400,000,000 in bonds which he has sold to banks and private investors might be jeopardized by a "loose" policy of lending money that might never be repaid. Wall Street, calling the Wallace plan "inflationary," was equally alarmed.

But Henry Wallace was boss. In late December, Franklin Roosevelt found himself called upon to write Mr. Hill a letter: "In accepting your resignation, I want to express my very real appreciation of your services . . ."

Speculation on FCA's future immediately became rife. Under its new administrator, Dr. A. G. Black, the agency will no doubt lose its independence, tie in closer with the department of agriculture and provide a measure of supervision over the farm operations of its borrowers.

Farm Money

It is no secret that the administration is feverishly seeking to cut the corners in 1940's budget to make way for a $500,000,000 boost in defense expenditures. Most carefully scrutinized item is agriculture, whose parity payments have cost $225,000,000 annually. The treasury's plight is further complicated by congress' failure to provide revenue sources for its farm appropriation the past two years.

Several weeks ago the treasury's Secretary Morgenthau met with agriculture's Wallace and a host of fiscal experts to iron out this problem. While the President told his press conference he would ask congress to dig up the money it "owes" the treasury for past farm payments, Messrs. Wallace and Morgenthau talked over the certificate plan, under which farmers would get their parity payments from consumers rather than the treasury.

How Mr. Morgenthau reacted to this plan was indicated a few days later. Although reports persisted that the President would ask congress to provide $1,050,000,000 in new revenue next year, his keeper of the exchequer started a mild rebellion that may burst into flames when the budget is finally announced. Said Mr. Morgenthau: "I haven't changed my views on consumer taxes; the taxes are now a little over 60 per cent and that's high enough."

Still unsolved was agriculture's No. 1 problem. Other problems:

¶ Condition of crops in the winter wheat area, where an unprecedented drouth remained unbroken, was officially stated at 55 per cent of normal. This would bring a crop the third smallest on record.

¶ The bureau of agricultural economics estimated the farmers' income from his products in 1939 dropped to $7,625,000,000 from $7,627,000,000 the previous year.

¶ Although 5,782,000 bales of cotton and cotton products were sold abroad under the export subsidy plan between August 1 and December 15, less than half of it has been shipped because of a shortage of ocean freight space.

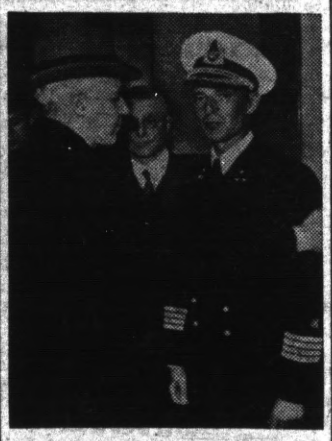
PAN AMERICA:

Neutrality

High sounding was the 300-mile "neutrality belt" thrown around the Western hemisphere when Europe went to war last September. Chief sponsor was the U. S., whose Undersecretary of State Sumner Welles promised his nation would take the lion's share of patrol duty. But by Christmastide the U. S. was feeling less altruistic.

Buried at Buenos Aires was Capt. Hans Langsdorff, who killed himself after scuttling his shell-battered pocket battleship *Graf Spee* off Montevideo. British ships, cheated out of the kill, sailed off for other illegal conquests. Roosting at a Florida port was the Nazi freighter *Arauca*, driven to shelter by a British cruiser. At New York's Ellis island were 577 survivors of the scuttled liner *Columbus*, whose Capt. Wilhelm Daehne charged a British boat had fired across his bow.

By this time Pan America was so aroused that Washington had its



COLUMBUS' DAEHNE
. . . at Uncle Sam's expense.

choice of enforcing neutrality or sacrificing prestige. With 20 other nations, the U. S. signed an ineffectual protest to the belligerents. Meanwhile Sumner Welles prepared for U. S. participation in the forthcoming Pan American conference, but Washington's enthusiasm was waning. While the state department said as little as possible, while the navy remained unenthusiastic about its job of patroling a 3,000-mile coastline, Captain Daehne and his crew had a merry Christmas as Uncle Sam's guests.

THE WARS:

In the West

Germany's eighth railroad accident since September 1 killed more people (52 dead, 30 injured) than were lost in several days on the western front, where an undeclared Yule truce held sway. As usual, there was more activity in the North sea. Britain, which was reported building a speedy fleet of "superplanes," adopted the Reich's trick of laying mines from the air. As the year ended, various forecasts had it that: (1) The next 12 months will bring a raging war; (2) the Netherlands will be invaded by Germany after its canals are frozen over; (3) Britain and France are planning a big naval drive on the Nazis.

In the North

It was an unhappy Christmas for Russia's atheistic Dictator Josef Stalin. Even unhappier were two of his stooges reportedly purged for failure on the Finnish front: Gen. K. A. Meretskov, Leningrad military district's chief of staff, and Otto Kuusinen, Finnish Communist who organized the "people's" government the day Russia began her ill-starred invasion. While Helsinki was evacuated in the face of a threatened Christmas air raid, the Finnish high command claimed its foe had been routed on all fronts.

COMING UP

JANUARY 6—Adm. James O. Richardson takes command of U. S. fleet, raising his pennant over flagship Pennsylvania.

JANUARY 8 — Democrats throughout the land meet at annual "Jackson day" banquets to raise party funds.

JANUARY 23 — John Lewis' United Mine Workers meet at Columbus; plan opposition to reciprocal trade agreement program.

JANUARY 26—U. S. abrogates 1911 trade treaty with Japan on this day.

FEBRUARY 1 — O'Mahoney temporary national economic committee, investigating U. S. business, to make final report to congress.

WHITE HOUSE:

Message

To Pope Pius XII, Franklin Roosevelt transmitted his Christmas greeting, his hope that men will "decline to accept, for long, the law of destruction forced upon them by wielders of brute force," and his announcement that former U. S. Steel Chairman Myron Taylor had been named U. S. representative to the Vatican. Said the letter, also transmitted to Dr. George Butterick of the Federal Council of Churches, and Rabbi Cyrus Adler, president of the Jewish Theological seminary: "I take heart in remembering that in a similar time, Isaiah first prophesied the birth of Christ."

The President also:

¶ Reportedly authorized the paring of about $700,000,000 from war and navy department estimates to hold next year's national defense cost to $2,000,000,000. Meanwhile the house naval subcommittee asked the navy for estimates on 65,000-ton battleships, bigger than any yet built. Minnesota's Rep. Melvin Maas, dreaming in even bigger figures, wanted them 80,000 tons each.

¶ Took time off to celebrate Christmas with four generations of the clan Roosevelt.

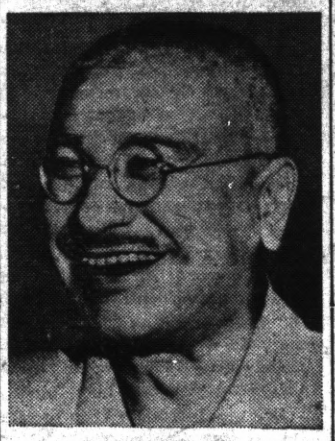
ASIA:

Ungrateful Recipient

Official Washington was still silent at Christmastide over Japan's "present," the announcement that China's Yangtze river would soon be reopened to foreign traffic. Missing were the whoops of delight that Tokyo expected from American newspapers. Missing, too, was enthusiasm among U. S. business men in China.

Nevertheless many an observer wondered if the U. S. shouldn't be a bit more receptive. Japan's gesture was significant in that it represented an attempt to patch trade relations before the abrogated treaty expires January 26. Should the gesture fall short, Premier Nobuyuki Abe's "weak sister" cabinet is apt to collapse.

Danger lies in the fact that Nippon's American-hating army would



NOBUYUKI ABE
If his cabinet falls . . .

seize control if the Abe government falls. Once that happens U. S. business men might as well pack their bags and go home.

POLITICS:

Third Party

Montana's Sen. Burton Wheeler was among the first Democrats to see the danger of a conservative candidate. His warning concerning the potent midwestern farm vote: ". . . their natural tendency has been with the Republican party and they would see no reason to change if a conservative Democrat is nominated."

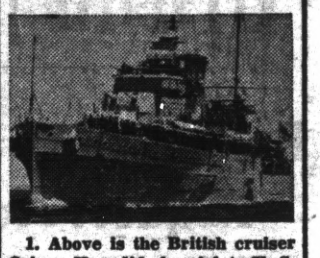
What Senator Wheeler didn't want, apparently, was the middle-of-the-road type of candidate many Democrats are seeking. The same type of candidate is being sought by Republicans, some of whom were recently reported flirting with Wisconsin's Progressive Sen. Robert La Follette and Minnesota's Farmer-Laborite Sen. Henrick Shipstead. Thus would conservatism and liberalism be counter-balanced. Thus, too, would each party have the same type of candidate.

A hint of concern about this very subject came out of the White House recently with New York's Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, a progressive Republican. Said he to reporters: "We (himself and the President) discussed the necessity of giving the people the chance to vote on real issues in the event that the two parties take Siamese twins, cut them in two and each take one-half for a candidate."

More such third-party talk came from other quarters, who disclosed that he, too, had been talking with Bob LaFollette. Observers wondered whether LaGuardia-Roosevelt-Ickes liberalism might not merge with the progressive third party Bob LaFollette's young brother, Phil, began last year.

NEWS QUIZ

Know your news? Perfect score is 100 and deduct 20 for each question you miss. Any score above 60 is good.



1. Above is the British cruiser Orion. How did she violate U. S. neutrality off the Florida coast?
2. What important European dictator just celebrated his sixtieth birthday anniversary?
3. Pope Pius XII decided to pay a state visit outside the Vatican during the Holidays, the first of its kind in 69 years. Who is his host?
4. Choice: Louis ("Lepke") Buchalter of New York made news because he: (a) climbed up the outside of the Empire State building; (b) was convicted for conspiracy to violate the narcotic laws; (c) announced he will run for New York district attorney to succeed Thomas Dewey.
5. True or false: Although U. S. acreage planted to grain crops (wheat, corn, oats, rye and barley) was smaller in 1939 than in the previous year, total production was higher.

(Answers at bottom of column.)

PEOPLE:

Journey's End

At New York died Anthony H. G. Fokker, who in World war days was Germany's youthful airplane designer, who later became the first man to make a million dollars in that industry.

Release?

At Berlin it was learned two petitions seeking release of Martin Niemoeller, Lutheran minister held prisoner since July, 1937, have been handed Reichsfuehrer Adolf Hitler by high German military officers. Reverend Niemoeller was a World war U-boat commander.

News Quiz Answers

1. By shooting at the German cruiser Arauca, which was driven to cover at Port Everglades.
2. Josef Stalin of Russia. (The army high command had promised to conquer Finland by that day, as a birthday present).
3. King Vittorio Emanuele of Italy, at the Quirinal palace which no pope has visited since the unification of Italy.
4. (B) is correct. "Lepke" still faces bribery charges.
5. False. In 1938, production was 4,868,000,000; in 1939 it was estimated at 4,626,000,000. But barley, winter wheat and corn showed much bigger individual acreage yields. (So did cotton, tobacco and soy beans.)

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

AS COMIC ARTISTS SEE THE WORLD

BIG TOP

By ED WHEELAN

MESCAL IKE

By S. L. HUNTLEY

That's One of the Rules

LALA PALOOZA —All Great Inventors Have a Tough Time

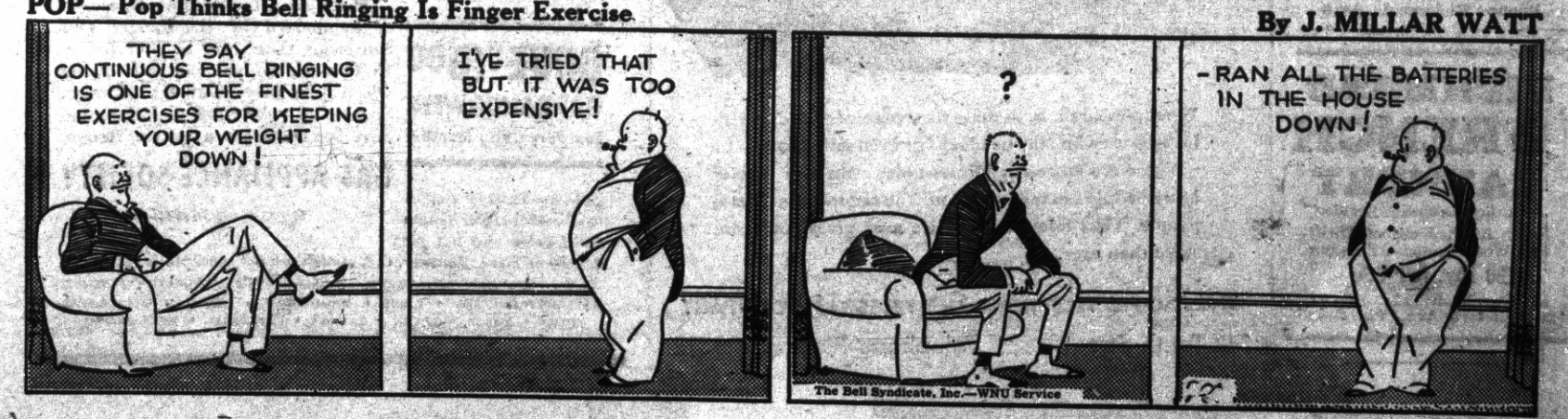
By RUBE GOLDBERG

'KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES' — Now What?

By POP MOMAND

POP— Pop Thinks Bell Ringing Is Finger Exercise

By J. MILLAR WATT



THE ORIGINAL RICHMOND

Happenings in Point Richmond

How Much Wood Could a Wood-Chuck Chuck, if a Woodchuck Would Chuck Wood?"

The woodchuck has recently come and gone and as I am from Pennsylvania where the woodchuck, alias ground hog,out here in the west, is an honored tradition and not a joke. Where, if he comes out on the second day of February and sees his shadow in the sun, back he goes into his hole and there he stays for another six weeks. Well, it is a pretty safe bet in most parts of the Keystone state that it will be about the end of March before the sno is off and Mr. and Mrs. Woodchuck can go far afield in search of adventure anyway, so it is just as well if the sun does come out for fifteen minutes on that day. Then again, as it is quite certain to be fair weather in California towards the end of February, anyway, the prediction of Candlemas day doesn't count so much. This is my observation after living in the Golden State for about forty winters, inasmuch as my visites in my native state have all been in the "Good Old Summer Time" and while I do not pretend to be a seeress, I maintain that we are due for Good Weather in a short time, especially in Richmond.

Mrs. Donald Hill presided at a meeting of the Washington P.T.A. last Tuesday afternoon.

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HARMONY OF BODY MIND AND SPIRIT

By Taniz Tanagra

(Continued from last week

Thus from the convalescent bed one may study, learn and think. Certain it is that within one's own heart and mind come truths, convictions, and realizations, in the long quiet hours. We should be able to gain a clearer perspective of both our intimate world and the world at large while the health and the strength gathering cure is being taken, and be the better for our having faced ourselves and all hat which we have gathered and surrouded ourelves with in our intimate life.

Having sifted the chaff from the wheat we face a new beginning knowing full well that it is within our power to build into our lives finer and better principles and relationships.

It has been said by one of the ancients that one cannot know compassion until one first knows pain. Whether the pain comes from the body, the mind, or the spirit, makes no difference. We cannot help but be finer people if we are strong enough and are courageous enough to surmount it . . so if we are forced to accept periods of convalescing from time to time, let us put it to good use thus adding to the store house of gifts life offers...

Mrs. Walter Paasch announced a 12:3$ luncheon was held on last Monday in the Richmond Clubhouse for members of the Richmond Club. Mrs. Newton Cleaveland, state chairman of American citizenship, delivered a splendid address.

Mr. and Mrs. Lars Larson of Hartnett Place had as their house guests recently, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur McKay, of Sand Point, Idaho. After a visit of three months in various parts of California, the northern visitors were delighted with their visit here, and expressed the hope they may return in the future.

A large class of Albany candidates were initiated into Point Chapter by the Worthy Matron, Mrs. Georgianna Westman and Worthy Patron Phillip Lee of El Cerrito.

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Martin Martens Celebrate 30th Wedding Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Martin E Martens celebrated their thirtieth wedding anniversary recently whch was attended by a large number of guests. A dinner was served at their home at No. 1 Park Place to twenty of their intimate friends, many of whom had been guests at their wedding which took place in San Francisco on January 26th 1910.

The Martin Martens have been in business here for more than eighteen years and are amongst our most popular and respected citizens.

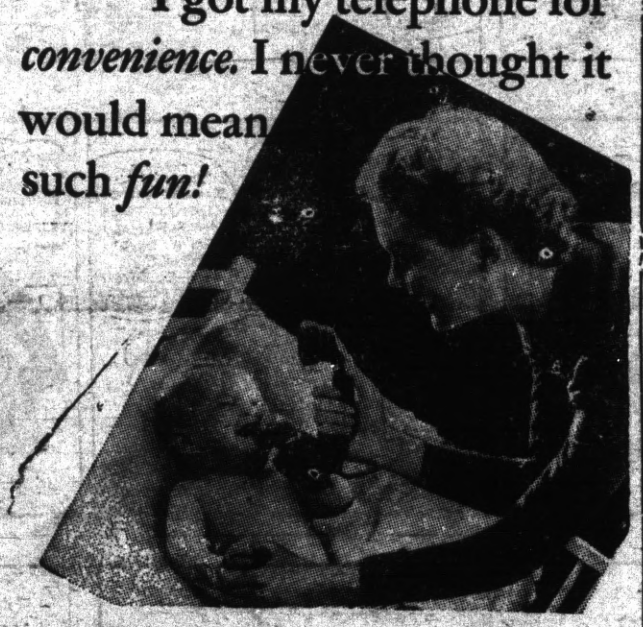
READ THE PROGRESS

Returns from Honolulu

Just returned from Honolulu is Mrs. George Doll of Richmond well known at the Point inasmuch as she grew up here. She relates a very pleasant visit of three months in the Islands,with many social activities together with her friend, Mrs. James Reed, a territorial official. Mrs. Doll with her hostess were entertained at the Gubernatorial Mansion.

Mrs. I. D. Owens entertained the Methodist Ladies Aid Society at her home on Nicholl avenue last week. Mrs. Charles Adams made a report on the convention held in Brentwood on the 26th.

I got my telephone for *convenience.* I never thought it would mean such *fun!*



What pleasure it is, to share the events of each day with loved ones who may be blocks or even miles away!

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